

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 24**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: July 8, 1999      TIME: 3:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.04 feet on July 7.

In Barnes County, hail during July 3 storm downed trees and destroyed several campers east of Rogers to Lake Ashtabula. The post office and bank in Wimbledon flooded during the storm. A June 25 storm caused private damages, mostly to trees, in the Wimbledon area. All areas with high water tables continue to have problems with flooded basements.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Voluntary Agency Coordinators from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plan to meet July 8 in Minot with representatives of agencies assisting disaster victims in northern North Dakota. Participants will include representatives of the Aging Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services, The Salvation Army, United Methodist Committee on Relief, American Red Cross, Community Action Agency, United Church of Christ and Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

Voluntary Agency Coordinators also met July 2 in Devils Lake to discuss area residents' needs with representatives of The Salvation Army, United Methodist Committee on Relief, FEMA Crisis Counseling and Lake Region Human Services Center.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The disaster area for FEMA-1279-DR-ND has been amended to include five additional North Dakota counties and one additional Indian reservation, state and federal officials announced July 7. Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Programs have been designated for the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation and Burke, Divide, Sioux and Williams Counties, and Individual Assistance only for Mercer County. The additional designations bring the total to 39 counties and four reservations eligible to receive assistance under the declaration.

State officials have requested FEMA to add Morton, Cavalier and Eddy Counties to these previously designated areas to receive assistance under this declaration.

On July 2, Governor Schafer requested that the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provide technical assistance to N.D. State Water Commission engineers and city of Devils Lake officials and engineers for a review of a proposed Devils Lake emergency outlet plan, proposed by the city of Devils Lake, that calls for diverting water from Stump Lake to Tolna Coulee. The Governor also asked that technical assistance be provided by the USACE to explore all other potential emergency actions to identify and develop the most effective and expedient detailed plan for an emergency relief project.

Federal and state disaster recovery officials have been encouraging farmers, ranchers and rural residents who have been affected by water damage to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance. Assistance may include: Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); installation of sump pumps, internal and external basement drains, gutters, drain spouts and extensions and the abandoning and filling of basements for homeowners whose basements continually flood; decontamination of well systems, and pumping repairing or moving septic systems; grants and low-interest disaster loans for homes and personal property damaged as a result of disasters; and grants for mortgage and rental assistance to homeowners who have lost income as a result of the disaster.

Federal and state Community Relations staff have been encouraging senior citizens to register for assistance. Staff also visited with Cass County residents impacted by the July 4<sup>th</sup> storm.

By July 7, North Dakota Job Service had received 876 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. To date, \$248,336 in benefits paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster. The filing period ends July 21.

As of July 7, the state-federal Public Assistance Program had received a total of 218 applications. Applicants include: 38 counties; 96 cities; 12 electrical cooperatives; 19 school districts; seven park districts; 22 water resource boards; four Indian reservations; six state agencies; and 14 others, including private non-profit organizations providing essential governmental services.

On July 6-7, Public Assistance orientation was conducted for state and federal staff to include Public Assistance Coordinators, State Liaisons and Project Officers who will be working the recovery.

Approximately 4,300 North Dakotans have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$3.3 million in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 1,900 applications to date. Approximately \$61,000 in benefits has been paid thus far to disaster victims.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has sent 3,500 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$712,000 in loans as of July 7.

Officials for the city of Woodworth in Stutsman County have issued a disaster declaration. To date, 42 counties, 33 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. DOT and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 22, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:  
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director